

**RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Held In Room 318**  
**PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**  
**CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members: Chairman Sullivan and Legislators Addonizio & Albano**

**Tuesday August 22, 2017**  
**(Immediately following Economic Development Meeting beginning at 6:00pm)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by Chairman Sullivan who requested Legislator Albano lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislator Addonizio, Legislator Albano and Chairman Sullivan were present.

**Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – July 18, 2017**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Item #4 - Discussion/ Replica Medals for Putnam County Veterans**

Roderick Cassidy, resident, stated he educates himself about the history of the military as a hobby. He stated at the end of World War I (WWI), Putnam County issued a commemorative medal to everyone who served. He stated it has now been about 100 years since Putnam County has issued such a medal and there have been several wars and conflicts during that time. He stated Westchester County has issued medals for the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He stated he believed it would be great, especially in the centennial year of WWI, if all veterans of Putnam County were to receive a commemorative medal. He stated the difficult part would be defining a “veteran of Putnam County.” He stated he believes Westchester County paid just below \$7.00 for each medal they presented. He stated there are at least two (2) entities in Putnam County that have expressed interest in producing the medals. He stated the Putnam County medal given out after WWI has a Native American head on it. He stated the reason for this was the individual who held the seal of Putnam County at the time did not support the project and would not provide a verified copy of the seal; therefore a Native American was put on the medal instead. He stated the medal is elegantly simple and he believes providing medals such as this one to the Veterans in Putnam County should be seriously considered. He stated the guidelines of defining a Putnam County Veteran would need to be decided.

Legislator Addonizio questioned what guidelines were followed in Westchester County.

Mr. Cassidy stated he believes Westchester had broad and inclusive guidelines that entitled anyone who was born in Westchester, served out of Westchester, or served on the USS Westchester to receive a medal.

Director of the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency Karl Rohde stated those who were from a different area and served in a different area, then moved into Westchester later on were not eligible to receive a Westchester medal.

Legislator Albano stated he would like come up with some scenarios and what the cost would be.

Legislator Addonizio stated she would also like to find out if any Putnam County residents received a medal from Westchester County.

Director Rohde stated he received a medal from Westchester County because he lived there at his time of service. He stated to avoid leaving anyone out, Westchester County created an application for Veterans to fill out to receive their medal; making it the Veteran's duty to be recognized.

Legislator Addonizio stated having an application is a great idea.

Director Rohde stated deciding the eligibility of each individual will not be easy. He stated he will recuse himself from any discussion about eligibility because although he has lived in Putnam County longer, he is originally from Westchester. He stated classes of discharge will need to be considered. He stated providing medals is an excellent idea, especially due to the fact that we are losing WWII and Korean War Veterans rapidly and these individuals deserve special recognition. He stated in his post there is one (1) active Korean War Veteran and no active WWII Veterans. He stated another consideration is if the medals will only be given to those Veterans who served overseas, or if they will be given to Veterans of that specific era. He stated for example, Westchester County presented medals to Vietnam Era Veterans, meaning those who did not leave the Country or were stationed in another Country received the medals along with those who went to Vietnam. He stated something else to keep in mind is that National Guard and Reservists must serve Federal Duty of 180 days to be considered Veterans. He stated those who go through training but do not get activated with Federal Duty are not legally Veterans. He stated he would like the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency to work with the Legislature on this. He restated putting the responsibility on the Veterans to identify themselves is the most efficient way to get the necessary information. He stated gathering names through other venues is often unreliable.

Legislator Addonizio questioned how many Veterans are currently living in Putnam County.

Deputy Director of the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency Art Hanley stated there are about 4,000 Veterans in Putnam County who have identified themselves as such.

Mr. Cassidy stated depending on the criteria, the number of medals should be less than the number of residents who have identified themselves as Veterans. He stated based on the fact that WWII and Korean War Veterans will not be with us much longer, the

presentation of their medals should be done rather quickly. He stated it is important to also include younger Veterans. He stated he agrees with the idea of the application process.

Legislator Addonizio questioned how long the Veteran would have to fill out the application.

Mr. Cassidy stated that would need to be decided.

Legislator Albano stated he would like to collect information to review.

Deputy Director Hanley stated the 4,000 Veterans are those who currently live in Putnam County and many of those individuals probably came to Putnam County after they served.

Legislator Nacerino stated from a logistical standpoint, she would support the eligibility being related to where the Veteran resided when they served and were honorably discharged. She stated if it is too broad based, it could get cumbersome.

Mr. Cassidy stated he was born in Westchester County and has lived in Putnam County for about 15 years. He stated he considers himself a "son of Putnam." He stated he chose to live in Putnam County and he served out of Putnam.

Legislator Nacerino stated Mr. Cassidy was discharged as a resident of Putnam County, which is how she believes the eligibility should be defined. She stated more discussion will be had on the eligibility criteria.

Legislator Jonke stated he agrees that the individual should have been residing in Putnam County at the time they were honorably discharged. He stated the State Department of Taxation and Finance has a very broad definition of "Veteran." He stated if it becomes too narrow there may not be many people to give a medal to.

Legislator Albano stated that is why it is important to collect information and go from there.

Mr. Cassidy stated he is confident that no matter what the criteria is, there will be hundreds of medals to be given. He stated even if the criteria was that the person needed to be born in Putnam, served out of Putnam, returned to and still lives in Putnam, there would still be a few hundred; although he believes that would be very restrictive.

Director Rohde stated the Veterans Service Agency has no way to find specific information.

Legislator Gouldman stated this is a wonderful idea. He stated the eligibility needs to be decided by those requesting this be done.

Chairman Sullivan agreed. He stated he is in favor of this idea and would like to have more information in regards to the number of people and the cost that would be associated with this endeavor. He stated Veterans are well deserving of this honor and recognition. He stated he would like to see information from Westchester County.

Director Rohde stated he has the information from Westchester County. He suggested, in an effort to keep the cost down, to stagger when the medals are given out. He stated for example, WWII and Korean Veterans could be the first group to receive a medal and then Vietnam Veterans could be given medals about a year later, and so on. He stated information could be collected on Veterans in Putnam County by pulling records held by the County Clerk, however it does not provide an accurate depiction of the actual number because not all will fit the legal definition of a Veteran. He stated he would speak with Director of the Westchester County Veterans Service Agency Ron Tocci to gather more information about their medal program. He stated as far as collecting information on Veterans via the information in Real Property, it must be examined one at a time because widows are entitled to retain the deduction in the Veteran's name. He stated Westchester County also gave out medals posthumously. He suggested assembling a committee to make decisions regarding the medals.

Chairman Sullivan stated a decision must be made on what the actual medal will look like as well.

Mr. Cassidy suggested having one (1) non-specific medal to be given out to Veterans of all wars.

Director Rohde stated if desired, various wars could be designated by the ribbon on the top of the medal.

Legislator Castellano stated it is important to move quickly on this endeavor, especially with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WWI coming up. He agreed with staggering the presentation of medals by war, beginning with WWII and Korean War Veterans. He stated he would like to sit on the committee Director Rohde suggested. He suggested setting a number of criteria and if a Veteran meets multiple criteria, they will become eligible to apply for a medal. He stated he believes the individual should have been not only honorably discharged, but also lived an honest life thereafter.

Chairman Sullivan stated he would like to wait for Director Rohde to forward the information from Westchester County to use as a starting point. He stated he is in favor of forming a committee.

Legislator Nacerino thanked Legislator Castellano for bringing this matter forward. She requested that she and Legislator Addonizio also be on the committee as the Legislative Liaisons for Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Cassidy also thanked Legislator Castellano.

Legislator Castellano questioned if Mr. Cassidy would like to also be on the Committee.

Mr. Cassidy stated he would love to.

Legislator Castellano questioned if the Native American would be kept on the medal or if the County Seal should be used.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if the Native American was Chief Ninham.

Mr. Cassidy stated it is not Chief Ninham. He stated the article he found referencing the medal refers to the person as “a proud Native American.”

Chairman Sullivan stated the committee can decide what should be shown on the medal. He thanked Mr. Cassidy and Mr. Rohde for attending the meeting.

**Item #5 - Approval/ Electrical Fees/ Pursuant to Section 145-8(H) of the Putnam County Code**

**Item #6 - Approval/ Electrical Civil Penalties/ Pursuant to Section 145-26(C)(2) of the Putnam County Code**

**Item #7 - Approval/ Local Law to Amend Chapter 145 of the Code of Putnam County Entitled “Electricians”**

Items #5, #6, & #7 were discussed together, but voted on separately. Please see below for the individual votes.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if the Electrical Board was in favor of the proposed changes.

Representatives from the Electrical Board who were in attendance stated they are in agreement.

Deputy County Attorney Gloria Tressler provided the Committee with a list of the changes made.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional;  
Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Deputy County Attorney Tressler stated there were two (2) modest increases on the Electrical Fee Schedule. She stated the increases are the Helper Registration fee which was raised from \$20.00 to \$40.00 for a two (2) year registration and the Inspection Permit fee was raised from \$30.00 to \$50.00. She stated larger increases were made to the Electrical Civil Penalties, which are penalties for violations. She stated the reasoning behind raising the penalty of a Master or Journeyman working

without a Putnam County license from \$1,250 to \$1,500 was because the Law Department has limited resources and a rule of thumb that is followed is that a penalty will not be pursued through the court system unless it is over a threshold amount of \$1,500. She stated if the secretaries of the boards try for about four (4) months to retrieve a penalty from someone and they are unable to, they will bring the case to the Law Department. She stated the Law Department will then send out a legal letter of final notice. She stated if the person still does not pay the penalty, it will then be pursued in local court. She stated the e-verify requirement has been removed because it is not required in New York State. She stated the number of days allowed between the issuance of an appearance ticket and the first appearance for a hearing before the Board has been increased from 60 to 100 days. She stated this was changed to accommodate situations such as not having a quorum or missing a meeting. She stated the Board members worked hard to ensure the specifications for the license and registration certifications were all up to date within Chapter 145 of the Code of Putnam County. She stated there were very specific qualifications for board members and this has been eased to help with maintaining a full Board. She stated for example, if the only vacancy on the Board is for a building inspector, but there are no building inspectors who are currently willing to volunteer, it becomes a problem. She stated they have also coordinated as many subsections of the laws pertaining to the Consumer Affairs Boards (Electrical, Plumbing & Mechanical Trades, and Home Improvement) to increase efficiency in the Office of Consumer Affairs. She stated fees have been added for retesting licenses because there are labor costs involved that they felt the County was not recouping. She stated there was a reciprocity section that was adjusted because it conflicted with another section of the law that talked about waiving the examination with Legislative approval. She stated the section requiring Legislative approval was removed and the reciprocity was left on its own. She stated a continuing education requirement was added in the electrical licensing, which will take effect in 2019. She stated passing this law this year will allow for the electricians to meet the requirement next year in 2018 and therefore be in compliance by 2019.

Chairman Sullivan thanked Deputy County Attorney Tressler for highlighting the changes that have been made.

Legislator Nacerino also thanked Deputy County Attorney Tressler. She stated when she was first elected to the Legislature she was the Chair of the Rules, Enactments, & Intergovernmental Committee and these laws were before the Committee at that time. She stated this is an arduous task and thanked the Board members, secretaries and all of those who were involved in bringing these changes to fruition.

Legislator Gouldman requested clarification on the e-verify not being required in New York State.

Deputy County Attorney Tressler stated it is not a requirement for the title work. She stated e-verify is required for work for the Federal Government.

**Item #5 - Approval/ Electrical Fees/ Pursuant to Section 145-8(H) of the Putnam County Code**

Legislator Albano made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item #6 - Approval/ Electrical Civil Penalties/ Pursuant to Section 145-26(C)(2) of the Putnam County Code**

Legislator Gouldman questioned what the process is for an electrician to receive a proper Putnam County ID.

Electrical Examiners Board Member John Morrison stated an ID is issued when the electrician or journeyman registers or passes their exam.

Ellen Sorrento, Plumbing & Mechanical Trades Board Secretary, stated there is a licensing process each individual goes through where they must meet various requirements. She stated once all requirements are satisfied, a certificate and ID card are issued.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item #7 - Approval/ Local Law to Amend Chapter 145 of the Code of Putnam County Entitled "Electricians"**

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

**Item #8 - Approval/ Plumbing & Mechanical Trades Board/ Fees Pursuant to Section 190-8(H) of the Putnam County Code**

**Item #9 - Approval/ Plumbing & Mechanical Trades Board/ Civil Penalties Pursuant to Section 190-23(C)(2) of the Putnam County Code**

**Item #10 - Approval/ Local Law to Amend Chapter 190 of the Code of Putnam County Entitled "Plumbing & Mechanical Trades"**

Items #8, #9, & #10 were discussed together, but voted on separately. Please see below for the individual votes.

Deputy County Attorney Tressler stated there are modest decreases in some of the Plumbing & Mechanical Trades fees. She stated this was done to put the schedule more in line with the Electrical fee schedule. She stated they also made changes to some of the civil penalties to make them parallel to the Electrical civil penalties. She stated changes were made to increase efficiency and create uniformity. She stated

they recognize that Electrical and Plumbing & Mechanical are two (2) completely different trades and some things in each were kept unique, but the formatting was made consistent with one another.

**Item #8 - Approval/ Plumbing & Mechanical Trades Board/ Fees Pursuant to Section 190-8(H) of the Putnam County Code**

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

**Item #9 - Approval/ Plumbing & Mechanical Trades Board/ Civil Penalties Pursuant to Section 190-23(C)(2) of the Putnam County Code**

Legislator Albano made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Chairman Sullivan. All in favor.

**Item #10 - Approval/ Local Law to Amend Chapter 190 of the Code of Putnam County Entitled "Plumbing & Mechanical Trades"**

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item #11 - Approval/ Proclamation Request/ Carmel Rotary/ Watering Flowers along Gleneida Avenue**

Chairman Sullivan stated the lamp posts along Gleneida Avenue have hanging flower baskets on them. He stated members of the Carmel Rotary volunteer their time to care for the flowers so they may be enjoyed by the Town and County. He stated a group of gentlemen from the Carmel Rotary meet at 5:00am every other day and they hook up a trailer with a water tank to go around and water the flowers. He stated if the weather is hot and dry the volunteers will go out every day. He stated they have been doing this for years.

Legislator Albano stated it is amazing that they keep the flowers looking so nice.

Chairman Sullivan stated it is important to recognize selfless work such as this.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to approve the proclamation recognizing the volunteers who care for the flowers along Gleneida Avenue; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

*After this meeting, the Legislative Staff was contacted by a member of the Carmel Rotary (Rotary). The proclamation will be amended and resubmitted at a future date.*

## **Item #12 - Discussion/ Re-Establish Fiscal Vision & Accountability Commission**

Chairman Sullivan stated County Executive MaryEllen Odell has requested that the Fiscal Vision & Accountability Commission be re-established. He stated this Commission was first established in 2007. He stated he, Legislator Scuccimarra, and Legislator Nacerino have sat on the board in the past. He stated Legislator Scuccimarra and Legislator Nacerino recently co-chaired the Commission. He stated he believes the Fiscal Vision & Accountability Commission serves a purpose as far as providing a place to review topics relating to possible tax savings and efficiency outside of the Legislature.

Legislator Albano stated there is no disadvantage to re-establishing the Commission and he is supportive of it.

Chairman Sullivan stated it is a matter of organization and keeping it on task. He stated it is not easy to bring up topics and get the resources. He stated the fact that County Executive Odell was involved in the Commission for many years is positive in that she understands some of the challenges they faced in getting things done.

Legislator Nacerino stated she is supportive of re-establishing the Commission. She stated when the Fiscal Vision & Accountability Commission was resurrected in 2014, they had a great group of people and it is her hope that those same individuals would be interested in sitting on the board again. She stated her concern is that an obstacle they faced the last time this Commission was active was that there were great ideas being addressed, however it was difficult to get anything off the ground. She stated it is her hope that if the Commission is re-established that it is successful in bringing concepts to fruition.

Chairman Sullivan stated he would like to include a requirement that a member of the Administration be included on the board to assist with the implementation of ideas and concepts.

Legislator Nacerino stated Deputy County Executive Bruce Walker attended several meetings when the Commission was last active. She stated there was a great group of talent, energy, and knowledge which lead to very meaningful discussions, but nothing that was implemented.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated when the Commission was last active, it was a great group of people but it floundered. She stated a topic would be brought forward, but would go nowhere. She stated when she was on the Fiscal Vision & Accountability Commission when it first began in 2007 there was a facilitator, which she believes made a difference.

Chairman Sullivan agreed and stated the facilitator kept the meetings organized.

Legislator Nacerino believed the most recent Fiscal Vision & Accountability Commission was facilitated very well, the problem arose with the materialization of the concepts that were being discussed.

Chairman Sullivan stated he would like to place the focus on specific areas that have potential until the board concludes if the topic can or cannot be followed through.

Legislator Nacerino stated great topics were pursued, however the goal was never able to be realized. She stated she would be willing to sit on the Fiscal Vision & Accountability Commission again.

**Item #13 - Discussion/ Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Law/ Request to NY State Liquor Authority/ Closing Hours of Bars**

Chairman Sullivan stated he has spoken with both concerned parents and bar owners regarding the closing hours of bars. He stated he spoke with a bar owner who was in favor of closing earlier. He stated Legislative Counsel Rob Firriolo pulled a resolution from 1974 which states bars are required to close at 3:00am. He stated the 1974 resolution also states bars should not open until 12:00pm on Sundays.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional;  
Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Legislator Castellano stated he believes the State recently changed the law regarding the opening time on Sundays.

Chairman Sullivan stated there is an inconsistency between what is documented on the New York State Liquor Authority website and the 1974 resolution.

Legislator Gouldman stated each municipality is allowed to change the law. He stated he had a bar in Manhattan and he was given allowance to stay open until 1:00am and he went in front of the Planning Board to extend that time until 4:00am. He stated the Planning Board had the authority to set the closing time.

Chairman Sullivan stated regardless of how late the bars are closing, the Sunday opening time needs to be addressed.

Legislator Jonke questioned if the person who Chairman Sullivan spoke with was the owner of a bar or a bar/restaurant.

Chairman Sullivan stated the person owns a bar in Carmel.

Legislator Castellano stated the bars in Southeast would not want to close earlier because the bars in Connecticut close at 2:00am.

Legislator Jonke agreed. He stated there is a large presence of law enforcement during this time of the night.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if bars are mandated to stay open until a certain time. She stated the bar can set their hours.

Legislator Jonke stated the bars in Connecticut close at 2:00am and people then come to bars in Southeast, which are open past 2:00am.

Legislator Gouldman stated years ago New York and Connecticut had different age restrictions on drinking alcohol and people would come into Putnam from Connecticut to drink.

Legislator Castellano stated he believes Connecticut does not allow the sale of alcohol on Sundays and there are stores along the border where residents go to purchase alcohol.

Legislator Gouldman stated he owns land in Texas in a “dry” County. He stated on the border of the next County there are many liquor stores and bars. He stated the reality is that people are going to the next County to purchase alcohol and go to the bars.

Legislator Castellano stated it is not illegal to drink; it is illegal to drink and drive and our area now has Uber and Lyft.

Chairman Sullivan stated the people he spoke with voiced their concerns about the negative things that happen later on in the night.

Legislator Addonizio stated the bar owner has the right to close the bar earlier.

Chairman Sullivan stated he was under the impression the closing time in Putnam was 4:00am, but is encouraged to learn it is actually 3:00am. He stated the opening time on Sundays, which he believes is 12:00pm needs to be addressed.

Legislator Castellano stated he believes the opening time on Sundays was changed by New York State and is 10:00am.

Chairman Sullivan stated this would be clarified.

**Item #14 - FYI/ Litigation Report – Duly Noted**

**Item #15 - Other Business**

**a. Approval/ Proclamation Request/ County Executive/ 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage**

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to waive the rules and accept the other business; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. Legislator Albano was absent.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to approve the proclamation recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Suffrage; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. Legislator Albano was absent.

**Item #16 – Adjournment**

There being no further business at 8:07pm Chairman Sullivan made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. Legislator Albano was absent.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Green.